Export of Indian mangoes to USA

875. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the US Department of Agriculture has lifted ban on Indian mangoes after 18 years;

(b) if so, whether it is true that an agreement has been entered into between APEDA and the US Department of Agriculture for export of mangoes to US;

(c) if so, the details of agreement;

(d) whether it is true that only US $ 1 million worth of mangoes exported last year and this year;

(e) if so, the problems that the exporters are encountering in the US market for export of our mangoes; and

(f) what promotional steps the Ministry has taken so as to export more and more mangoes to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Both sides have agreed to an Operational Work Plan, according to which US Department of Agriculture deputes its inspectors to India during the mango season to oversee the complete operation of mango exports.

(d) As per DGCIS information, during 2008 mango season, India exported 143 MTs of mangoes to USA valued at Rs. 2 crores approximately. The low offtake was a result of spoilage of quality of the fruits due to unseasonal rains. The 2009 mango season is yet to commence.

(e) The limited facility for treatment of mangoes for irradiation for export to USA, high cost of compliance with the pre-clearance, high airfreight costs, huge funds required for promotion programs, stiff competition from countries like Mexico and Brazil, etc. are the hurdles for export of our mangoes to USA.

(f) The Government has been coordinating with the export promotion agencies such as APEDA and EIC by providing necessary technical inputs and financial assistance. APEDA through its schemes for Infrastructure Development, Scheme for Quality Development, Scheme for Market Development and the Scheme for Research and Development has been making efforts to gain market access for fruits and vegetables including mangoes.

Fall in industrial production

876. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a fall in industrial production in October, 2008 it picked up in the following months;